

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.- 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~34, whereby said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells are removed from the human peripheral blood.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~34, wherein said method further comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~34, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~12~~34, further comprising a step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~28~~34, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

(a) ~~constitutive expression of CTLA-4;~~

(~~b~~a) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;

(~~e~~b) being in an anergic state;

(~~d~~c) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;

- (ed) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;
- (fe) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;
- (gf) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized anti-CD3 antibodies;
- (hg) suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment;
- (ih) suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD8⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment; and
- (ji) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of CD4⁺ CD25⁻ T cells.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation

of CD4⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN- γ .

33. (Currently Amended) A method to remove CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

- (a) isolating CD4⁺ T cells from the blood;
- (b) isolating CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells from the CD4⁺ T cells isolated in step (a);

and

- (c) testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells isolated in step (b) for constitutive expression of CTLA-4, and confirming the presence in said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4.

34. (New) A method to remove CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

- (a) isolating CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells from the blood; and
- (b) testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells isolated in step (a) for constitutive expression of CTLA-4, and confirming the presence in said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33, which further comprises confirming the presence in said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 by contacting the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells isolated in step (b) with anti-CTLA-4 antibodies and detecting specific binding of said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 to said antibodies.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34, which further comprises confirming the presence in said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 by contacting the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells isolated in step (b) with anti-CTLA-4 antibodies and detecting specific binding of said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells constitutively expressing CTLA-4 to said antibodies.